



# Hamilton County Juvenile Court

**TRACIE M. HUNTER**  
Judge

800 BROADWAY, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202-1332  
(513) 946-9200

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **JUDGE HUNTER RESPONDS TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING HER CASES**

**Cincinnati, OH** – October 1, 2013 Judge Tracie M. Hunter is disturbed that a Judge of Juvenile Court, the Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office appear to have purposely misled the Ohio Supreme Court regarding Judge Hunter's cases, especially considering her disproportionate caseload and the history of Juvenile Court being backlogged with cases pending past recommended time guidelines, long before Judge Hunter's arrival on the Court.

The First District Court of Appeals recently granted several Writs filed against Judge Hunter, but the Judge questions why the First District would render such rulings when it should have known that Judge Hunter was precluded by law from ruling in several of those cases.

In one case, a Writ of Procedendo was filed by the Public Defender's Office against Judge Hunter on August 12, 2012, subsequent to Judge Hunter's August 2, 2013 ruling.

In a second case, filed by the Public Defender's Office, Judge Hunter ruled August 20, 2013, yet the First District Court of Appeal, in a Writ granted September 18, 2013 almost a month subsequent to Judge Hunter's ruling, ordered Judge Hunter to rule by October 16, 2013.

In a third lawsuit filed against Judge Hunter August 12, 2013 by the Public Defender's Office, the Prosecutor filed a Motion to Reopen the case on June 12, 2013, with agreement of the Guardian Ad Litem division of the Public Defender's Office, that filed the Writ. Judge Hunter could not rule in the case while the Motion was pending. The Motion was not scheduled for hearing on Judge Hunter's docket until September 13, 2013.

In a fourth lawsuit filed against Judge Hunter by the Public Defender's Office, August 12, 2013, the case was pending before the First District Court of Appeals when the Writ was filed. The First District assumed jurisdiction of that case on April 9, four months before the lawsuit was filed against Judge Hunter, which deprived Judge Hunter of jurisdiction. Judge Hunter was barred by law from ruling in that case on appeal before the First District Court or face contempt.

"It is disturbing that the Prosecutor's Office and the Public Defender's Office were aware that I was prohibited from ruling in several pending cases when those lawsuits were brought against me as Judge. The Prosecutors Office knew months ago, when they were representing

me, that by law I could not render rulings in those cases. The First District Court of Appeals should have also been made aware or become aware of the status of those cases."

"The First District Court of Appeals has ordered me, under threat of contempt, not to rule in cases after a Notice of Appeal is filed in its Court. Therefore, it is concerning that this same Court of Appeals would not know decisions had already been rendered before ordering me to rule in these cases. These continued efforts to harass and hinder me in my work as a Judge are most disheartening when so many children and families are impacted," said Judge Hunter. "Each time an allegation is made, my staff and I are forced to spend hours and entire days researching frivolous claims in order to provide accurate information to the media and public, hindering me in my ability as a Judge to focus on my cases. These diversions seem intentional."

Judge Hunter states that it is also ethically concerning that Judge Williams, as the identified administrative judge, sent inaccurate documents to the Ohio Supreme Court alleging cases to be beyond time that were clearly not out of time and continues to ignore the backlog issue in the entire Juvenile Court that preceded Judge Hunter for years. It appears that in an effort to avoid addressing the inaccurate reporting system Judge Hunter discovered, whereby Juvenile Court for years has been sending inaccurate and misleading information regarding cases to the Ohio Supreme Court, Judge Williams, as the noted administrative judge of the court, and others responsible for compiling the data, appear to be attempting to divert attention and shift case management issues plaguing the entire Juvenile Court to incoming Judge Hunter.

"Attorneys long familiar with the issues facing Juvenile Court have expressed that it is no secret that cases have been pending beyond time guidelines in Juvenile Court for many years. I have attempted to work with the Court privately to rectify these problems in the best interest of justice and equality for the children and families of Hamilton County, but I will not bear the brunt of this Court's problems and malfeasances when an independent audit of Juvenile Court will reveal the truth. I attempted to rectify the problems in a manner that would not expose Juvenile Court's shortcomings, but based on these relentless, unwarranted, unfair and inaccurate attacks on me as a Judge doing my best despite lack of assistance, I have no choice. Juvenile Court must be audited thoroughly by a nationally respected independent court reviewing agency with expertise to provide this Court the assistance it needs to solve a long ongoing problem."

On September 9, 2013, Judge Hunter sent a response to the Ohio Supreme Court with a complete history of all the cases that Judge Williams inaccurately alleged as overdue. The response is enclosed only to dispel these continued misrepresentations to the media and public.

**Contact: Judge Tracie M. Hunter**  
**513-946-9212**

####